

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

6 May 1981

DOCUMENT L-215/81

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION
for entry in register

tabled by Lady ELLES, Mr FERGUSON, Mr HUTTON,
Sir Peter VANNECK, Sir John STEWART-CLARK,
Dame Shelagh ROBERTS, Mr KIRK, Mr HABSBURG,
Mr BEYER DE RYKE, Mr d'ORMESSON, Mr PÖTTERING,
Mrs RABBETHGE, Mr HORD, Mr C. JACKSON,
Mr PATTERSON and Mr PURVIS

pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on political developments in Malta

The European Parliament,

- Considering that the Community has an Association Agreement with Malta,
- Considering that there is an inter-parliamentary delegation with Malta,
- Noting paragraphs 33-48 of the Maltese Constitution on the Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of the Individual,
- 1. Notes with the deepest concern recent developments in Malta, which have been described by the Leader of the Opposition as 'opening the way to a state of legalised dictatorship', including dangerous interference in the independence of the judiciary;
- 2. Recalls the attempts by the State authorities to take over the Blue Sisters Hospital which is bound by the terms of its foundation to be run by a religious order;
- 3. Expresses its indignation at the harassment of the sisters running the hospital, some having been deported and some having been taken to court;
- 4. Notes that further to the Blue Sisters case the Government has introduced the code of Organization and Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill which removes the right of any individual to sue the Government, establishes a Working of the Law Courts Commission, appointed by the Prime Minister and capable of removing any member of the legal profession, and prevents the bringing of any urgent cases against the Government;
- 5. Recalls the view of the International Commission of Jurists that this Bill 'strikes at the basic principles of the rule of law' and 'threatens the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession';
- 6. Considers that this bill may simply codify the existing practice of the authorities in removing or replacing any judge who decides against the Government on even the most trivial of matters;
- 7. Deplores the recent banning of the London Times and the Sunday Times in Malta;
- 8. Notes that the Times of Malta has been banned recently and that Dr. Guido de Marco has been charged with making false accusations against the Prime Minister and leading police officers;

9. Notes that in addition to other acts of repression against the freedom to practice religion, the traditional church services held at Luqqa airport have been banned;
10. Considers that this pattern of events should be a cause for concern throughout the Member States of the Community;
11. Urges the members of the interparliamentary delegation to step up their contacts with parliamentarians in Malta so as to investigate the situation and to report to the Parliament on their findings;
12. Urges the Council of Foreign Ministers to examine the situation in Malta as a matter of urgency and to make representations to the Prime Minister of Malta so as to prevent any further undermining of democracy;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Government of Member States, the Maltese Government and to the President of the Council of Europe.